

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SAN JO 02790 041933Z

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 SSO-00 /026 W

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R 041805Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4738

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EXDIS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PGOV, EFIN, PINT, CS

SUBJECT: VESCO CASE: HE RETURNS TO COSTA RICA

REF: SAN JOSE 2776

1. FOREIGN MINISTER FACIO CONFIRMED TO ME THIS MORNING (AUGUST 4) THAT VESCO AND HIS FAMILY RETURNED TO COSTA RICA AUGUST 3 (REFTEL). WHEN I COMMENTED: "THAT'S TOO BAD", HE REPLIED, "YES, THAT'S TOO BAD". I ASKED IF PRESENCE OF VESCO'S FAMILY MEANT HE WAS MOVING IN PERMANENTLY, AND FACIO DISCLAIMED ANY KNOWLEDGE OF HIS PLANS, BUT DID SAY THAT VESCO OF COURSE COMES AND GOES AND MIGHT LEAVE AGAIN SOON.

2. EARLIER, DURING MY CONVERSATION WITH FACIO AUGUST3, SUBJECT OF VESCO CAME UP. I OBSERVED THAT WE STILL CONSIDERED VESCO A FUGITIVE FROM JUSTICE DESPITE THE LOSS OF OUR EXTRADITION CASE. I NOTED THAT INVESTIGATIONS CONTINUED IN US, AND THAT SEC CASE WAS STILL IN TRAIN. I EXPECTED VESCO WOULD STILL BE VERY MUCH IN THE NEWS AND ADDITIONAL LEGAL DEVELOPMENTS WITHIN THE US WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY OCCUR.

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PAGE 02 SAN JO 02790 041933Z

I WENT ON TO OBSERVE THAT ASSOCIATION BETWEEN

COSTA RICA AND VESCO RAISED ALL SORTS OF QUESTIONS (AND EYEBROWS) IN THE US, AND THAT COSTA RICA'S (AND THE GOCR'S) PUBLIC IMAGE HAD BEEN HURT BY THIS ASSOCIATION. FACIO SAID HE CERTAINLY AGREED. I OBSERVED THAT IF VESCO RETURNS TO COSTA RICA THIS WOULD COMPLICATE THE PUBLIC IMAGE PROBLEM AND WOULD FROM THAT POINT OF VIEW BE REGRETTABLE FACIO AGAIN AGREED AND SAID HE DID NOT BELIEVE VESCO WOULD RETURN; HE THOUGHT IN FACT VESCO WAS LOOKING FOR ANOTHER PLACE TO GO TO.

3. INFORMATION CONTAINED IN REFTTEL CAME TO MY ATTENTION WITHIN TWO HOURS OF MY RETURN FROM MY CONVERSATION WITH FACIO. THEREFORE SHORTLY THEREAFTER, I TELEPHONED THE MINISTER, SAID I HAD HEARD THAT VESCO HAD RETURNED AND ASKED IF IT WERE TRUE. SOUNDING NON-PLUSED HE SAID HE HAD NOT HEARD THAT, BUT WOULD CHECK, AND ASKED ME TO CALL THE FOLLOWING DAY. WHEN I CALLED THIS MORNING HE CONFIRMED VESCO'S RETURN PER PARA 1 ABOVE.
VAKY

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